

**Presbytery of Yellowstone - Special Meeting
January 4, 2024**

24-001. Opening of the Meeting

The Presbytery of Yellowstone met on Thursday, January 4, via Zoom, beginning at 12:00 noon. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by the Moderator, RE Melissa Bell.

A quorum was declared present.

24-002. Purpose of the Special Meeting: This special meeting was called by 2023 Presbytery Moderator Melissa Bell at the request of the Pastoral Ministry Team for the following reasons:

1. To act on the recommendation from the Pastoral Ministry Team (PMT) that Teresa Kendall be dismissed to the Presbytery of Holston per her request and that of the Stated Clerk of Holston Presbytery, with gratitude for Teresa and her ministry and leadership in Deer Lodge and Yellowstone Presbytery.
2. To act on the possible nomination of a person to serve on the Pastoral Ministry team in place of Bill Banks. Mr. Banks was elected to PMT at the November presbytery meeting after which it was discovered he was not a Ruling Elder.

Any action the Presbytery might wish to take must be related to items 1 and 2.

24-003. Present at the meeting:

Ruling Elders with vote attending:

1. RE Russ Kline, Billings 1st
2. RE Debbie Ernst, Bozeman, PMT
3. RE Julie Boksich, Church of the Big Hole
4. RE Stephanie Bergstrom, Manhattan
5. RE Melissa Bell, Lewistown, Moderator
6. RE Cal Boyle, St. Timothy Chapel
7. RE Nancy Pehl, Terry
8. Terry Johnson, Dillon

Ministers of Word and Sacrament Members Present: (Note absences and excused absences are not reported for Special Meetings of this Presbytery)

Ashley Birk, Warren (Rusty) Craig, Kathy Goodrich, Steven Hundley, Teresa Kendall, Neva Rathbun, Dave Thompson, Daniel Triller.

Others Present: RE Caroline Fleming, Stated Clerk; Cheryl Banks, nominee for PMT class of 2026.

24-004. Recommendation from the Pastoral Ministry Team:

***Action:** PMT recommends to Yellowstone Presbytery that Teresa Kendall be dismissed to the Presbytery of Holston per her request and that of the Stated Clerk of Holston Presbytery, with gratitude for Teresa's ministry and leadership in Deer Lodge and Yellowstone Presbytery.

Teresa stated that she has been called to serve as Interim Pastor at the Piney Flats Presbyterian Church in Piney Flats, TN where 205 to 30 people worship each week. Her work begins January 8, 2024.

The PMT motion passed unanimously.

24-005. Recommendation from the Representation/Nominations Team (Rep/Nom):

***Action:** Rep/Nom recommends that RE Cheryl Banks be elected to PMT Class of 2026 to replace Bill Banks who was elected at Presbytery's November meeting.

Dave Thompson explained that it was discovered following Bill Bank's election that he is not a Ruling Elder in the PC (USA) thus is not eligible to serve on the PMT. Kathy and Dave have talked with Cheryl and found her very qualified to serve.

Cheryl stated that she grew up in the Presbyterian Church with a Presbyterian pastor/father who served several small churches. As an adult she has served the church in numerous ways including as a Sunday School Teacher, PW member, in mission work with non-profits, a dental clinic, an ESL program and more. She feels she has gifts that can help pastors and churches grow and flourish.

The Rep/Nom motion passed unanimously.

24-006. Announcements: Kathy announced the CLP/CRE training program through Dubuque Theological Seminary begins January 15. People can start the course without committing to the entire two-year program. Costs will be \$150.00 per course plus materials. There are 4 classes per year over a two-year period. Scholarships are available.

24-007. Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer:

1. Janet Kline had back surgery recently. Russ asked for prayers for her healing and for him to maintain his patience as he cares for her.
2. Lanny Round's father is 93 and his health is failing. Lanny would like prayers for his father and for himself as he tries to care for his father's needs.
3. Neva's niece died in the early fall and her sister died right before Christmas. She feels blessed that she could travel to be with the family for her sister's funeral.
4. Joy for the recent Christmas season.
5. Thanks for Yellowstone Presbytery and the relationships developed here.
6. Manhattan's new pastor, Charles Walden, should be in Manhattan in February.

Moderator Melissa Bell asked Teresa Kendal to close the meeting with prayer for her last act as a member of Yellowstone Presbytery. Teresa closed the meeting with prayer at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Fleming
Stated Clerk